

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4841

INFO USMISSION UN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUXEMBOURG 1082

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, LU

SUBJ: KEY DOMESTIC GROUP SUPPORTS GOL POSITION ON UNGA ZIONISM
RESOLUTION

1. THE INFLUENTIAL UNION DES MOUVEMENTS DE RESISTANCE
LUXEMBOURGEOIS, UMBRELLA ORGANIZATION OF LUXEMBOURG VETERNS
AND RESISTANCE GROUPS, ADOPTED A RESOLUTION AT ITS DECEMBER
MEETING DEPLORING THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY'S RESOLUTION
EQUATING ZIONISM WITH RACISM. OBSERVING THAT THE RESOLUTION
WAS ADOPTED ON A SINGULARLY INAPPROPRIATE DATE--THE ANNIVERSARY
OF THE INFAMOUS "REICHSKRISTALLNACHT" IN WHICH JEWISH
SYNAGOGUES IN GERMANY WERE PUT TO THE TORCH IN 1938--THE UMRL
PRONOUNCED ITSELF "SCANDALIZED" BY THE WORLD BODY'S ACTION
AND STRONGLY SUPPORTED THE LUXEMBOURG GOVERNMENT IN ITS
CONDEMNATION OF IT. IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY'S VOTE, LUXEMBOURG PRESIDENT AND UNGA PRESIDENT GASTON
THORN HAD VIGOROUSLY CRITICIZED THE RESOLUTION AND MADE IT
CLEAR THAT HE WAS SPEAKING IN HIS CAPACITY AS HEAD OF THE
LUXEMBOURG GOVERNMENT.

2. COMMENT: THE RESOLUTION PROVIDES A BOOST AT HOME FOR
THORN, WHOSE HANDLING OF THE ZIONISM RESOLUTION CAME IN FOR
SOME CRITICISM, AND A MEASURE OF HIS CONTINUING POPULARITY
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IN HIS OWN COUNTRY. THE UMRL REPRESENTS A BROAD SPECTRUM

OF GROUPS--RANGING FROM NATIONALIST TO COMMUNIST--WHICH
TOOK PART IN THE UNDERGROUND RESISTANCE TO NAZI
OCCUPATION IN WORLD WAR II, AND ITS SUPPORT IS
VALUABLE BECAUSE OF THE CONTINUING HOLD THAT PERIOD
EXERCISES ON THE IMAGINATION OF THE LUXEMBOURG PUBLIC.
WHILE THORN'S ACTIONS AS UNGA PRESIDENT ARE NOT FOLLOWED
AS CLOSELY IN THE LUXEMBOURG PRESS AS ARE HIS DOMESTIC
POLICIES, INDICATIONS ARE THAT A LARGE MAJORITY OF HIS
OWN ELECTORATE SUPPORTS HIM FULLY IN HIS PERFORMANCE
SO FAR IN THAT OFFICE. A COPY OF THE UMRL RESOLUTION WILL
BE POUCHED TO THE DEPARTMENT. FARKAS

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NNN

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